

[0047] The wireless power-receiving apparatus may be applied to various devices in addition to the mobile terminal 310 and the wearable device 320 illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2.

[0048] In this manner, the wireless power-receiving apparatus may be applied to various devices, and the wireless power-transmitting apparatus 100 according to the embodiment changes settings of wireless charging in response to an identification/determination of the wireless power-receiving apparatus applied to such various devices.

[0049] For example, the wireless power-transmitting apparatus 100 communicates with the wireless power-receiving apparatus to verify e.g. class, category, power requirements, or capability information of the wireless power-receiving apparatus and responsively control a variable resonator of the wireless power-transmitting apparatus according to the verified class information.

[0050] Hereinafter, various embodiments will be described in more detail with reference to FIGS. 3 to 8.

[0051] FIG. 3 is a block diagram illustrating a wireless power-transmitting apparatus according to an embodiment.

[0052] Referring to FIG. 3, the wireless power-transmitting apparatus 100 includes a power supply 110, a power transmitter 120, and a controller 130.

[0053] The power supply 110 generates a predetermined level of power using externally input power. The power supplied by the power supply 110 is supplied to the power transmitter 120.

[0054] The power transmitter 120 operates a variable resonator 122 using the power supplied from the power supply 110 and wirelessly transmits the power to the wireless power-receiving apparatus.

[0055] The power transmitter 120 includes an inverter 121, the variable resonator 122, and a capacitance controller 123.

[0056] The inverter 121 operates in accordance with control of the controller 130, and operates the variable resonator 122 using the power supplied by the power supply 110.

[0057] The variable resonator 122 includes, for example, a variable capacitor and an inductor. Since the variable resonator 122 provides variable impedance, it may be magnetically combined with various types of wireless power-receiving apparatuses to wirelessly transmit power therebetween.

[0058] The capacitance controller 123 controls capacitance of the variable capacitor included in the variable resonator 122.

[0059] The controller 130 controls the power supply 110 and the power transmitter 120.

[0060] The controller 130 includes at least one processing unit. In some embodiments, the controller 130 further includes a memory. The processing unit may include, for example, a central processing unit (CPU), a graphics processing unit (GPU), a microprocessor, an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), a field programmable gate arrays (FPGA), or the like, and may have a plurality of cores. The memory may include a volatile memory (e.g. RAM), a non-volatile memory (e.g. ROM, Flash memory), or a combination thereof.

[0061] The controller 130 controls the power transmitter 120 to transmit a ping signal when detecting a change in impedance of the variable resonator 122. When receiving a

response signal of the wireless power-receiving apparatus to the ping signal, the controller 130 verifies class information from the response signal.

[0062] The controller 130 controls the power transmitter 120 to adjust the impedance of the variable resonator 122 in accordance with the verified class information.

[0063] The class information includes a plurality of classes which are classified according to at least one of a type, required/requested power, and impedance information of the wireless power-receiving apparatus.

[0064] In some embodiments, the controller 130 has impedance setting data in which predetermined impedance information is set according to respective classes. Accordingly, when the controller 130 verifies the class of the wireless power-receiving apparatus from the class information, the controller 130 identifies or determines an impedance value corresponding to the verified class from the impedance setting data and then controls the variable resonator 122 to have the verified impedance value.

[0065] In some embodiments, the class information is represented by N bits (herein, N is a natural, integer number greater than 0), and the variable capacitor included in the variable resonator 122 also includes N capacitors connected in parallel. In this case, the class information is used as a control signal controlling the N capacitors connected in parallel. However, other suitable configurations may be employed, as would be known to one of skill in the art, after gaining a thorough understanding of the following description.

[0066] FIG. 4 illustrates respective phases of wireless power transmission.

[0067] Referring to FIG. 4, the wireless power transmission includes an initial selection phase.

[0068] The selection phase refers to a process step of transmitting, for example, an analog ping signal through a variable resonator, determining a change, such as a change in impedance, caused by the analog ping signal, and determining whether a specific object exists near the wireless power-transmitting apparatus.

[0069] In the specification, the analog ping signal collectively refers to a signal for determining an approach of an external object, and there is no limitation on how to express the signal. For example, a signal represented by another expression according to a standard or an embodiment, such as a beacon signal, may correspond to the analog ping signal as long as it determines whether a specific object exists near the wireless power-transmitting apparatus or not.

[0070] When a predetermined object is determined as being adjacent to the wireless power-transmitting apparatus in the selection phase, the wireless power-transmitting apparatus transmits a ping signal to check whether the object is a wireless power-receiving apparatus. This is referred to as a ping phase.

[0071] When the wireless power-transmitting apparatus receives a response signal of the wireless power-receiving apparatus to the ping signal, it verifies the object to be wirelessly charged and power requirements thereof from the response signal. This is referred to as an identification and configuration phase.

[0072] Next, the variable resonator is controlled, that is, the impedance of the variable resonator is changed according to the verified information, to wirelessly transmit power according to the changed impedance. This is referred to as a power transfer phase.